

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 27, 2006. Claims 1, 7, 13, 22, 26, 30, 35, and 40 have been amended, claims 8, 9, 14, and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 45-48 have been added. Claims 1-7, 10-13, and 16-48 are presently pending. No new matter has been added.

§112 Rejections

Claims 30-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 30, 35, and 40 have been amended to recite “identifiers in the revision history that are more recently associated with an update than the received identifier....” Each of these claims already recites that the identifiers are associated with updates to configuration information. The Applicants believe that this amendment addresses the rejection in the Office Action as it identifies in what manner one identifier can be more recent than another.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1-33, 35-38, and 40-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,557,028 to Cragun (“Cragun”). Claims 34, 39, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,067 to Mi et al. (“Mi”). The Applicants traverse these rejections.

Each of independent claims 1, 7, 13, 22, 26, 30, 35, and 40 have been amended to clarify that a user can access a system by logging on to a user object. This definition is consistent with the present specification. (See, for example, p. 14, lines 4-19.) The Office Action appears to take the position that the “user objects” are the entries in the collaborative bookmark list of Cragun. This is not consistent with the use of the term “user object” in the present patent application which indicates that a user can log on to a user object. The present amendment further clarifies the meaning of the term “user object.”

Cragun does not teach or suggest a “user object” on to which the user logs to obtain access to a system. The entries in a bookmark list in Cragun do not allow a user to log on and obtain access to a system. Instead, in Cragun the user must log on to the system in order to use the entries in the bookmark list. In other words, the bookmark list is only available after the user has logged on to the system. Accordingly, these bookmark list entries of Cragun are not “user objects” as understood in the present specification or recited in the present claims. None of the other cited references address these deficiencies of Cragun. Accordingly, the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest every element of independent claims 1, 7, 13, 22, 26, 30, 35, and 40, as well as the claims which depend therefrom.

Furthermore, independent claims 18, 22, and 26, as well as dependent claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17, each recite a “ticket number.” The portion of Cragun (Col. 6, lines 40-60) cited in the Office Action does not teach using a ticket number but rather describes updating records using nominate, approve, and move records. The nominate, approve, and move records are not a “ticket number.” Each of the above-identified claims is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cragun. If the rejection of these claims is to be maintained under 35 U.S.C. §102, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner specifically identify the teaching in Cragun that supports anticipation of the recited ticket number.

None of the other cited references address these deficiencies of Cragun. Accordingly, the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest every element of claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16-18, 22, and 26, as well as the claims which depend therefrom.

Moreover, claims 34, 39, and 44 recite an update vector determined as a function of bit vectors where the function comprises the logical-OR of the bit vectors associated with identifiers that are more recent than the received identifier. The Office Action admits that Cragun does not teach or suggest this claim element. The Office Action relies on Mi for such a teaching. Mi, however, does not teach or suggest determining an update vector.

The portion of Mi (Column 3, lines 10-20 and Column 4, lines 5-40) cited in the Office Action is directed to verifying and granting user access as acknowledged in the Office Action. This

disclosure in Mi is in no way related to generating an update vector. One of ordinary skill in the art would not turn to Mi's teaching regarding verification and user access to modify Cragun to include an update vector determined as a function of the logical-OR of bit vectors. There is no relationship between these two disparate disclosures. These are two non-analogous situations. This lack of motivation for making the proposed combination of Cragun and Mi prevents the establishment of a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The present rejection of the claims is based solely on a hindsight reconstruction in view of the Applicants' disclosure in the present patent application.

For at least the reasons given above, each of the independent claims 1, 7, 13, 18, 22, 26, 30, 35, and 40, as well as the remaining claims which depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative, Bruce Black, by telephone to discuss the matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

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